

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 29-30 and 32-50 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-13, 29-30 and 32-50 have been rejected. Claims 1, 29 and 30 have been amended to more clearly define that which is being claimed, such that no effective narrowing of claim scope has been accomplished. No claims have been canceled or added.

I. Summary of Telephonic Interview

The Examiner is hereby acknowledged and thanked for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of July 13, 2004 between Examiner Huynh and the undersigned attorney. The pending claims, current Office Action and prior art were all discussed during this telephonic interview, with particular focus on that which is clearly taught by the primary prior art reference used, U.S. Patent No. 5,741,183 to Acres et al. ("Acres"). Agreement was reached with respect to Acres not explicitly teaching power connections for its personality board and DCN, although it was agreed that these items inherently require power connections to operate as described in Acres. Accordingly, it was agreed that assumptions or inherencies of the various properties and relationships with respect to these power connections inherent to the devices of Acres would be limited. An invitation was then made to amend the pending claims to more clearly reflect that which is being claimed, which has been accomplished herein. Agreement was also reached with respect to Acres not affirmatively disclosing or teaching several other claim elements. It was then respectfully resubmitted that Acres would not be an appropriate anticipatory reference for claims requiring such elements.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 10-13, 29-30 and 32-50 all stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres. In particular, the Office Action disputes at page 11, "applicant's

argument that Acres does not teach or suggest switching off power through said secondary power connection while power is maintained through said primary power connection."

Applicants respectfully traverse these § 102 rejections. In traversing these rejections, Applicants respectfully reiterate and incorporate by reference in their entirety the remarks made in the previously filed papers of August 7, 2003 and February 4, 2004.

In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must include every material element of that claim. The present application contains 4 pending independent claims, which are claims 1, 29, 30 and 49. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "said at least one secondary power connection is adapted to have power supplied therethrough switched off while power is maintained through said at least one primary power connection." Similarly, claims 29 and 30 both recite, *inter alia*, "switching off power through said [secondary or first] power connection while power is maintained through said [primary or second] power connection." Claim 49 similarly recites, *inter alia*, "maintaining power . . . via said second power connection during said step of switching off power through said first power connection." Since all other claims depend from one of these four independent claims, every pending claim comprises at least some element of an apparatus adaptation or step for switching off power through one connection while power is maintained through another connection. Applicants again respectfully submit that while the invention of Acres could be used in conjunction with the present invention, that such an element is not affirmatively taught by Acres.

In disputing this point made by Applicants that Acres does not affirmatively teach this element, the Office Action points to the passages at column 16 line 56 through column 17 line 15 of Acres. Applicants note at this point that these passages all refer to FIG. 9 of Acres, which illustrates a "personality board 202" that is also illustrated in FIG. 2 and is referred to in FIGS. 3 and 4. In particular, the Office Action refers to these passages of Acres, in stating, "board 202 couples the data communication node 42 to a gaming device. The board allows

the DCN to be easily removed and reinstalled from the network. The individual lines are either tied to a supply voltage to represent a binary one (connected) or to ground to represent a binary zero (not connected)." Accordingly, Applicants understand the Office Action to be asserting that the "personality board 202" of Acres corresponds to the presently claimed "main communication board," while the "data communication node ("DCN") 42" of Acres corresponds to the presently claimed "at least one other component" and "daughter board."

Assuming this to be the case, Applicants again respectfully submit that while the invention of Acres could be used in conjunction with the present invention, that Acres does not disclose at this passage or anywhere else any element of an apparatus adaptation or step for switching off power through one connection while power is maintained through another connection. Although Acres might describe that this "board allows the DCN to be easily removed and reinstalled from the network," as asserted in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that such a feature does not account for the provision of a primary power connection and a secondary power connection adapted to have power therethrough switched off while power is maintained through the primary power connection. In fact, there are many ways for an item such as a DCN "to be easily removed and reinstalled from a network" that do not involve such a power arrangement, and Applicants note that it is generally well known in the electronic arts that power should be shut down through all connections when removing or reinstalling disparate devices. Again, while it is certainly possible that the invention of Acres could be used in conjunction with the present invention, Acres does not affirmatively teach such a power arrangement as part of being "easily removed and reinstalled."

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the configuration of identification circuit 208 in FIG. 9 of Acres does not constitute such a specific element. Although the Office Action states, "The individual lines are either tied to a supply voltage to represent a binary one (connected) or to ground to represent a binary zero (not connected)," such an

arrangement represents a static identification circuit, and does not constitute a "secondary power connection adapted to have power therethrough switched off while power is maintained through [a] primary power connection." Indeed, each of lines CNFG0 and CNFG1 are shown as being permanently connected to ground, while each of lines CNFG2 through CNFG5 are shown as being permanently connected to power. Hence, a switching function or capability has not been shown, such that this passage and figure of Acres has not been shown to meet this claim element. Applicants respectfully submit that no other portion or figure of Acres affirmatively describes such an arrangement or function.

As an additional matter, Applicants also note that the passage of Acres that has been attributed to the claim element of "at least one primary power connection" appears to have been misinterpreted. For this presently claimed element, the Office Action points to column 10 lines 15-29 of Acres. A reading of this passage, however, finds a description of a data communication interface adapted for providing various signals corresponding to various machine functions or states. Applicants respectfully submit that such an interface is used to transmit signals, and is not a "primary power connection" as is presently claimed. In fact, the only "power" found in this passage is for a "POWER signal" and not a power connection. While Applicants note that it may be inherent for an item such as "board 202" of Acres to have a power connection, such a power connection is not shown or discussed at this particular passage. Applicants respectfully submit that regardless of whatever power connection might be inherent to "board 202," such a power connection has not been shown to contain all of the defining elements and relative relationships that are presently claimed, such that Acres cannot be said to anticipate the currently pending claims for at least these reasons.

In addition, Applicants reassert that there still exist several other claim elements within the pending independent claims that have not been shown to be affirmatively disclosed

by Acres, such that Acres has not been shown to anticipate these claims for at least these additional separate reasons. These additional elements include at least those for:

- “at least one standard *receptor slot* for securing at least one other component to the main communication board,”
- “a daughter board plugged into said standard *receptor slot* of the main communication board,”
- “a daughter board . . . configured to *receive power from* the main communication board,”
- “*replacing* the first daughter board with a *second* [or third] daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board,”
- “[another] daughter board [that] converts signals . . . to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format,”
- “providing a *second daughter board* in a *second standard receptor slot* of the main communication board,” and
- “[another] daughter board [that] converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a *third communications format*.”

(emphases added). Applicants respectfully submit that while the Office Action may purport to address each of these elements by pointing to various passages within Acres, that none of these passages affirmatively recites a receptor slot, a daughter board that receives power from a main board, the replacement of a daughter board with a different daughter board, a second daughter board in a second receptor slot, or the conversion of signals from a first to a second and third communication formats. Applicants again note that while the invention of Acres could be used in conjunction with the present invention, such that Acres does not foreclose the incorporation of some or all of these elements, that the foregoing specific elements have not been shown to be affirmatively taught by Acres.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that since none of these recited elements have been shown to be disclosed by Acres, that Acres cannot be said to anticipate any of independent claims 1, 29, 30 and 49. Because each of dependent claims 2-7, 10-13, 32-48

and 50 depend from one of independent claims 1, 30 or 49, these claims are likewise not anticipated by Acres for at least the same reasons as those provided for these independent claims. Applicants thus respectfully request the withdrawal of the § 102 rejections with respect to claims 1-7, 10-13, 29-30 and 32-50.

Applicants note at this point that these claims were not anticipated by Acres *prior* to the amendments made herein. In light of the formal Examiner Interview of July 13, however, Applicant has amended claims 1, 29 and 30 to more clearly delineate that which is being claimed, such that no effective narrowing of claim scope has been accomplished. In so doing, Applicants note that these amendments are being made only to affirmatively disclaim remote possibilities that were not intended to be claimed and not believed to be claimed in any event, such as the case where the "secondary power connection is adapted to have power therethrough switched off while power is maintained through [the] primary power connection" by simply yanking the one other component out from its connection to the main communication board and thereby terminating its power connection. Applicants respectfully submit that use of the term "switching" precludes such an unstable way of terminating power.

Applicants also note that several of the previously added dependent claims now stand as rejected over passages in Acres that do not appear to disclose that which is being presently claimed. For example, claims 39 and 44 are rejected in light of column 6 lines 27-67 of Acres. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that while Acres could certainly be used in conjunction with such an element, this passage does not affirmatively disclose the step of "communicating a signal to a remote gaming device . . . *when* money is accepted by the gaming machine." Similarly, claims 40-43 and 45-48 are rejected in light of column 19 lines 25-61 and column 10 lines 41-67 of Acres. However, these passages of Acres disclose a floor controller having a communication board with eight microcontrollers that are connected in a daisy chain. Applicants respectfully submit that while the present invention could be

practiced with the invention of Acres, that this is not the configuration that is being claimed in each of these recently added dependent claims requiring "a plurality of gaming machines connected as part of a daisy chain." Accordingly, Acres does not anticipate claims 40-43 and 45-48 for at least this additional reason.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres alone. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

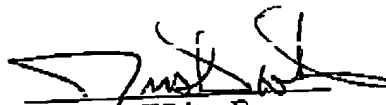
As detailed above, independent claim 1 has not been shown to be unpatentable over the prior art for a number of reasons. Dependent claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1, and are thus patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as those provided for claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the § 103 rejections with respect to these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. It is believed that no fee is due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this paper or application, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P022. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below with any questions or concerns relating to this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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